

Newsletter



The
ORATORY
RC PRIMARY
School

Summer Term: Issue 5
5th July 2021

We work together, we play together, we laugh together, we pray together.

Forthcoming dates

- 12 July** Junior Sports Day (children only)
- 20 & 21 Jul** Year 6 play (details TBC)
- 22 Jul** Leavers' Mass Year 5 & 6, 2pm Oratory Church
- 23 Jul** Last day of term. Finish 2 hours earlier.
- 6 Sep** First day of term
- 11 Sep** Current Year 3 First Holy Communion

Please note: In the current climate, most end of term events are going to be held in a Covid safe way, with parent involvement kept virtually.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Your child's end of year report will be sent home tomorrow, so please keep a look out for the envelope in their bag. You will be able to discuss the report with your child's teacher at Parents' Evening this week.

We are all wondering what school life will look like next academic year, and hoping that we will be able to 'de-bubble' and have assemblies and events once more. There will inevitably be changes to pick-up and drop-off too. However, the school has to wait for government guidelines to change before we can plan for next year, and these still remain the same at the moment. Rest assured, I will let you know of any new arrangements just as soon as I can.

Best wishes, Mrs Griffiths, Headteacher

Reminder: Holiday Dates and finish times

No doubt, you will be thinking of making plans to visit relatives abroad over the summer break. Please ensure you book flights with our term dates in mind, taking into account a need to self-isolate on return. We cannot stress enough how important the beginning of term is for your children's wellbeing and confidence.



Please remember that on the last day of term, school breaks up two hours earlier than usual.

Get thinking!

What's the most important job in the world?

What do you think? Take a moment to discuss this at home, or with your friends.

Remember, there is no right or wrong answer and it is the process of discussing that is important!



Infant Sports Day



Congratulations to all of our budding sports superstars who enjoyed their races last Thursday afternoon. They all cheered for each other, joined in each race, tried their best and had a lot of fun!

Fortnightly Learning Summary

Reception

- Maths: Capacity
- Literacy: postcard from the beach, explaining how to make the Lighthouse sandwich, packing list
- UTW: teabag experiment, seasons (summer)
- EAD: building lighthouse, seaside small world, pointillism painting
- PD: yoga, making food out of theraputty, dough cutting/moulding
- RE: Why is Sunday a special day? A visit from Fr Edward

Year 1

- Art: painting our Olympic medals
- History : Rudolf Nureyev and Billie Jean King achievements
- English: The Secret Sky Garden: Instructions about how to make a secret sky garden, letters to the characters about whether they should or shouldn't share the garden. Recount. Zarha: speech and thought bubbles, prediction, exclamation marks and question marks
- Science: naming parts of a tree. Plant observations.
- Maths: Telling the time, partitioning, systematic methods of finding number bonds to 100, 20 and 10
- RE: Jesus Heals the Blind Man & the Paralysed Man - recount, prayers and writing in role

Year 2

- Maths: using the column method to +/- 2 digit numbers
- English: describing a Gambian Market and writing recipes for chakery
- Science: using our working scientifically skills to investigate which paper flowers will open the quickest when dropped into water
- Geography: comparing the climate and farming in Gambia & the UK
- DT: designing African weaves.
- RE: How did Jesus help the Apostles?
- Computing: researching African countries

Year 3

- Maths: Telling time to 5 minutes and to the minute; Finding duration.
- English: Writing a diary entry from Jemmy Button's point of view as he tries to make a decision; Poetry inspired by 'Jemmy Button'.
- Topic: Ancient Greece - Exploring the Olympic Games.
- Science: Exploring the requirements of plants for life and growth; Setting up an experiment to investigate how important each of these requirements are for the growth of a plant.
- R.E: Beginning to understand what being a Christian involves; Understanding what Jesus teaches about helping others.

Year 4

- Maths: Learning statistics by reading charts and tables
- English: Writing a formal letter to Professor Brownstone (character in our class book 'Arthur and the Golden Rope') asking to be selected to visit his Family Vault.
- RE: Understanding that the Church is family, and we belong to the Church
- Science: Observing the effects of different drinks on chewing gum to learn about the effects of tooth decay
- Topic: Where did the Vikings come from and where did they settle?

Year 5

- English: Documentary script writing, Poetry writing/performing, Time travel narratives - based on Tom's Midnight Garden
- Maths: Calculate perimeter of composite shapes; Calculate, compare and estimate area; Convert metric units of length, mass & capacity.
- RE: Hinduism: How does dharma influence how Hindus live? What are Hindu beliefs about karma, samsara and moksha? Topic: Research Tudor life by looking at found objects; Investigate the Mary Rose & the Cowdray engraving.
- Science: Describe the changes as humans develop from birth to old age; Researching paediatricians
- PSHE: Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Year 6

- Maths: Beginning a project on designing a theme park.
- English: Creating a travel brochure about our School Journey destination.
- Topic: Exploring how narratives about migration morph over time.
- Science: Explaining the impact of human intervention on evolution.
- RE: Understanding what it means to be a disciple in our own lives.

Leavers' Events

The Year 6 production of 'Peter Pan' will be performed twice for parents, so that as many of you can see it as possible. Performances are scheduled for 20th July in the afternoon (time TBC when we know how long the play will last!) and 21st July in the evening. We will attempt to provide 2 tickets for each family- one at each performance, but government guidelines will determine audience numbers. Thank you for your patience until we have more information.

The event will also be live streamed.

Leavers Mass for children and parents of Year 6 and Year 5 will be held at the Oratory Church at 2pm on 22nd July. More information to follow.

Arrangements for Pick Up

If someone else will be collecting your child and the arrangements are made in advance, please write a brief note and give it to your child to pass to the teacher. This will authorise that named person to collect your child. Please reserve phoning the school or emailing the teacher/office on the day for emergencies only.

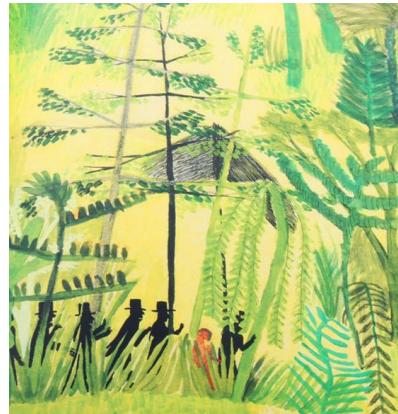
Reporting Absence

Please phone the school before 9.00am and leave a message on the designated absence line giving specific reasons for any illness (eg headache, temperature, upset tummy) rather than just saying that your child is unwell or sick. Please also remember to follow this up with a letter/email to the teacher and the office to ensure that the absence is authorised in the school's official register.

Poetry in Year 3

Year 3 poet, Sonny O'Hanlon, impressed Mrs Griffiths this week when he came to her office for a Golden Griffiths award. His poem, based on the book 'Jemmy Button', was full of imagery and effective repetition. Well done!

Behind you, Jemmy Button,
Humid leaves drip with tears.
Above you, Jemmy Button,
Night sky whispering why.
Around you, Jemmy Button,
Waves bobbing up and down.
Beside you, Jemmy Button,
Green, giant trees saying goodbye.



Staff News: Hello, Goodbye and Congratulations

As each year goes by, we say a sad goodbye to those members of staff who are moving on to pastures new, and we give a huge Oratory welcome to those joining us.

Goodbye:

Miss Howarth will be moving abroad to live and work. We would like to thank her for her wonderful work with her classes, as well as her leadership in Maths, and of course being the tidiest teacher in town! Miss Monckton, our Reception teacher, will also be leaving us at the end of the academic year to work in the Civil Service. She is a true marvel with Early Years and has nurtured our little owlets so well! Our sincere thanks to Mr Ward for covering our maternity leave vacancy this year. Our Year 6 children have had great fun, and have learned more than one or two new jokes (as well as plenty of Maths and English, of course!). We wish him all the very best in his new position. Finally, our teaching assistant of many years, Mrs Katherine Brown, will be leaving us at the end of term. Mrs Brown has been such a positive force for good in the school. Beginning Oratory life as a volunteer and chair of the Parents' Association, her roles have included being a catechist for First Holy Communion and an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. She will be much missed!

Hello:

We are very pleased to welcome four new members of staff this year. Miss Lara Oswald will be our School Direct Trainee, based in Year 2 with Miss Creer, Miss Katherine Dahlgren will be our new Reception Class teacher, and former Learning Support Assistant Mrs Ana Paiva will be returning to this role after a year away. We also welcome Miss Sarah Seaman as a support teacher. The children already know Miss Seaman as she has frequently been a cover teacher over the past few years. In addition, Mrs Kasia Kaczmarek will be returning from her maternity leave- welcome back!

Congratulations:

Miss Jackson will be getting married to her fiancé Christopher over the summer holidays. She will return to school as Mrs Halls in September. After a postponement due to Covid, Mr Alton and his partner Nora will at last get to celebrate their marriage this summer! We wish all of the newlyweds a lifetime of happiness!

Parents' Evenings

Teachers will be holding meetings with parents via Zoom later this week: This is an opportunity to discuss your child's academic progress and end of year report. Sign-up sheets are on Google Classroom, and a Zoom link will be available. Please note:

- Filming of Zoom meetings are not permitted for privacy reasons.
- Meetings are for ten minutes, so please be on time for your meeting. The teacher will let you know when the next parent is in the 'waiting room' and your meeting needs to end.
- Please have your camera on and be indoors for your meeting. In cases where parents have joined meetings while they are outside, there has been difficulty with sound quality.
- Your child's classteacher will discuss their academic progress with you in terms of whether they meet national expectations, or whether they are working below or above the standard expected for their age. Please do not ask your child's teacher to rank them compared to other children in the class. This may be the practice in the independent sector, but this is not the way that Oratory Primary School operates.
- Teachers will not be able to offer other meetings when appointments are missed, or write a report via email as an alternative. This is due to their other working priorities such as lesson planning, assessment and curriculum development, so please make every effort to attend your meeting.

Classteachers 2021-22

Reception: Miss Katherine Dahlgren
Year 1: Miss Olivia May
Year 2: Miss Georgina Creer
Year 3: Mrs Kate Halls (formerly Miss Jackson)
Year 4: Miss Ana Urbano
Year 5: Mr Patrick Alton
Year 6: Mrs Kasia Kaczmarek and Ms Rachel Usher

Over the next few weeks, until the end of term, the children will continue to work hard on their current curriculum. During the last week of term, they will spend some time thinking about the transition to their new class, including meeting their new teacher.

Parents will notice two teachers in Year 6: Mrs Kasia Kaczmarek and Ms Rachel Usher. Miss Kaczmarek will teach on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Miss Usher will teach on Thursday and Friday. Parents may worry about this sort of arrangement if they haven't encountered it before. Please be reassured, Mrs Kaczmarek and Ms Usher are both experienced Year 6 teachers and are used to working in this way. There will be a thorough handover each week and excellent teaching- two minds being better than one! Parents should always include both teachers when sending an email.

Parents' Association News

Thank you to everyone who supported the uniform on sale last Tuesday and a huge thank you to the Reps and other parents who helped at both sales and gave the new parents whose children are starting in September a warm Oratory welcome! We made over £1000 that morning which is fabulous. I'm so pleased we've been able to support the school this term, paying for workshops and school trips and thus enabling all the children to enjoy some extra special treat days. It wouldn't be possible without your support, thank you!

From school to the Oratory Church. Many of you were at the Garden Party last Saturday and joined in the joyful occasion that it was. Katherine Brown renewed her annual role running the children's tent, and it's always a delight to see so many young customers exchanging their pocket money for a pre-loved toy. Katherine asked me to say a huge thank you to those who helped to raise a fantastic £986 at the Children's Tent and special thanks to those who helped out on the day. I'd like to say thank you to Katherine who organised it and ran the shop, and hopefully we've persuaded her to come back and run it next year!

By the time I hit the Tea Tent there were only a few crumbs left, which shows how successful that tent was: it raised £983! Well done to those who baked cakes and served tea. Thank you to everyone who came. The Fathers were incredibly grateful and the day was an enormous success. Covid restrictions didn't stop the joyful atmosphere.